

SECRET

63-2353

21 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter *84*
Dr. Scoville *3/25*

I ran across Mr. Jack Horner, Chairman of the Board of United Aircraft (Pratt-Whitney) last week and we had a brief discussion of the J-58 engine for the A-12 aircraft.

Horner stated that it was his opinion the J-58 engine is one of the outstanding developments in jet engine manufacture so far attained and actually has exceeded expectations. Horner stated deliveries remain on schedule and that many production problems which had affected earlier deliveries had been disposed of.

However, Mr. Horner made the point that the engine can not be considered as a dependable aircraft engine until the very considerable amount of research and development has been undertaken. This work was continuing at their West Palm Beach developmental plant. This comment was made when I inquired from Mr. Horner as to whether the J-58 engine would be a suitable engine for a supersonic transport plane.

Horner stated that the cost to date of the development of the engine was considerably less (approximately only 60%) of the General Electric costs for development of the engine for the B-70. This, he felt, was remarkable in view of the fact that the B-70 engine, the sensitive parts of which are encased in an environment in which normal temperatures are maintained, is a simpler development than the J-58.

I would like to discuss the research program planned for 1963 and the prospect for ultimately developing a truly dependable engine in other types of aircraft.

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JOHN A. McCONE
Director

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